

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A catheter assembly comprising:

a control handle;

an inner catheter member having a proximal end and a distal end and further including a distal mounting portion adapted to have a medical device mounted thereon, the proximal end attached to the control handle, and a guide wire receiving member having a proximal end and a distal end and being configured for receiving a guide wire, the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member being spaced apart from the proximal end of the inner catheter member, the guide wire receiving member further including an opening at the proximal end and an opening at the distal end and a lumen extending between these openings formed on the distal and proximal ends of the guide wire receiving member; and

an outer catheter member co-axially disposed over the inner catheter member and dimensioned for relative axial movement relative to each other, the outer catheter member being comprised of multiple portions, wherein the outer catheter member includes a distal portion having a proximal end and a distal end, the distal portion being adapted to at least partially cover the medical device, the distal portion having an inner surface which directly contacts the medical device, an intermediate portion having a distal end and a proximal end, the distal end of the intermediate portion coupled to the proximal end of the distal portion, and a proximal outer member having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end of the proximal outer member being attached coupled

to the control handle and the distal end of the proximal outer portion being coupled to the proximal end of the intermediate portion, wherein the proximal end of the intermediate portion has an outer diameter and the distal end of the proximal outer member has an outer diameter, ~~which is smaller than~~ the outer diameter of the proximal end of the intermediate member portion being larger than the outer diameter of the distal end of the proximal outer member to allow the guide wire to exit the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member and through an opening formed at the proximal end of the intermediate portion of the outer catheter member without bending.

27. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 26, wherein the intermediate portion of the outer catheter member includes a lumen and the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member is slidably disposed within this lumen.

28. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 27 wherein the distal mounting portion of the inner catheter member has a lumen extending therethrough and a portion of the guide wire member extends through this lumen.

29. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 28 wherein the portion of the guide wire receiving member extending through the lumen of the distal mounting portion is secured to the wall forming the lumen.

30. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 28 wherein the portion of the guide wire receiving member which does not extend through the lumen of the distal mounting portion is slidably disposed within the lumen of the intermediate portion of the outer catheter member.

31. (Cancel)

32. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 27 wherein a portion of the guide wire receiving member is housed in the lumen of the intermediate portion.

33. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 26 wherein the intermediate portion of the outer catheter member is made from a material which is more flexible than the material forming the proximal portion of the outer catheter member.

34. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 26 wherein the proximal portion of the inner catheter member is made from a hypotube.

35-46. (Cancel)

47. (Currently Amended) A catheter assembly comprising:

a control handle;

a medical device;

an inner catheter member having a proximal end and a distal end and further including a distal mounting portion upon which the medical device is mounted, the proximal end being coupled to the control handle, a guide wire receiving member for receiving a guide wire, the guide wire receiving member having a proximal end, a distal end and a lumen for receiving the guide wire, the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member being spaced apart from the proximal end of the inner catheter; and

an outer catheter member coupled to the control handle and co-axially disposed over the inner catheter member and dimensioned for relative axial movement relative to each other, the outer catheter member comprising:

a distal portion having a proximal end, a distal end and lumen extending therethrough, the distal portion being adapted to at least partially cover the medical device and having an inner surface which directly contacts the medical device;

an intermediate portion made from a tubular member having a proximal end, a distal end and a lumen extending therethrough, the proximal end of the distal portion being coupled to the distal end of the intermediate portion;

a proximal portion made from a tubular member having a proximal end[,] and a distal end, the proximal end of the intermediate portion having a diameter that is greater than the diameter ~~near~~ of the distal end of the proximal portion, the distal end of the proximal portion being attached to the proximal end of the intermediate portion; and

a passage formed at the area of attachment of the proximal portion to the intermediate portion, the passage allowing a guide wire to pass through to exit the lumen of the guide wire receiving member ~~without bending~~.

48. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 47 wherein the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member has an opening to the lumen of the guide wire receiving member and the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member extends into the passage formed on the outer catheter member.

49. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 47 wherein the distal mounting portion includes a tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end and a lumen extending therethrough.

50. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 49 wherein at least a portion of the guide wire receiving member extends through the lumen of tubular member of the distal mounting portion.

51. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 50 wherein the inner catheter member includes a proximal portion having a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end of the proximal portion being coupled to the tubular member of the distal mounting portion.

52. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 51 wherein the proximal portion of the inner catheter member is an elongate component.

53. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 52 wherein the elongate component is a length of hypotube.

54. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 53 wherein the proximal portion of the outer catheter member includes a lumen and the proximal portion of the inner catheter member extends through this lumen.

55. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 54 wherein the proximal portion of the inner catheter member is slidable within the lumen of the proximal portion of the outer catheter member.

56. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 47 wherein the guide wire receiving member defines a distal portion and a proximal portion, at least a portion of the proximal portion of the guide wire receiving member extending through the lumen of the intermediate member.

57. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 56 wherein the proximal portion of the guide wire receiving member is slidable within the lumen of the intermediate member.

58. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 47 wherein the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member has an opening to the lumen of the guide wire receiving member and the opening of the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member aligns with the passage formed on the outer catheter member.

59. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 58 wherein the guide wire receiving member has a distal portion and a proximal portion, at least a portion of the proximal portion of the guide wire receiving member extending through the lumen of the intermediate member.

60. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 59 wherein the proximal portion of the guide wire receiving member is slidable within the lumen of the intermediate member.

61. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 47 wherein the distal end of the proximal portion extends into and is attached within the lumen of the intermediate portion of the outer catheter member.

62. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 47 wherein the entire length of the proximal portion of the outer catheter has a smaller diameter than the intermediate portion.

63. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 47 wherein the tubular member forming the distal end portion of the proximal portion has a tapered diameter.

64. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 63 wherein the tapered portion of the proximal portion and the proximal end of the intermediate portion cooperate to form the passage for the guide wire.

65. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 64 wherein the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member is bent to fit within the passage formed on the outer catheter member.

66. (New) A catheter assembly comprising:

a control handle;

a medical device;

an inner catheter member having a proximal end, a distal end, a distal mounting portion upon which the medical device is mounted and a guide wire receiving member for receiving a guide wire, the proximal end of the inner catheter being coupled to the control handle, the guide wire receiving member having a proximal end, a distal end and a lumen for receiving the guide wire, the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member being spaced apart from the proximal end of the inner catheter; and

an outer catheter member coupled to the control handle and co-axially disposed over the inner catheter member and dimensioned for relative axial movement relative to each other, the outer catheter member comprising:

    a distal portion having a proximal end, a distal end and lumen extending therethrough, the distal portion being adapted to at least partially cover the medical device and having an inner surface which contacts the medical device;

    an intermediate portion made from a tubular member extending from the distal portion, the intermediate portion having a proximal end with an opening, a distal end with an opening and a lumen extending therethrough;

    a proximal portion made from a tubular member extending from the intermediate portion, the proximal portion having a proximal end coupled to the control handle and a distal end with an opening, the proximal end of the intermediate portion having a diameter that is greater than the diameter of the distal end of the proximal portion, wherein a passage is formed at the area where the proximal portion meets the intermediate portion, the guide wire receiving member being placed adjacent to this passage to allow the guide wire to pass through the guide wire receiving member through the opening at the proximal end of the intermediate portion.

67. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 66 wherein a length of the proximal portion extends into the opening of the proximal end of the intermediate portion and the space between the tubular member of the proximal portion and the tubular member of the intermediate portion defines the passage.

68. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 67 wherein the passage has a longitudinal length.

69. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 68 wherein the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member is located within the passage.

70. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 69 wherein the outer catheter member is capable of sliding longitudinally relative to the inner catheter member and the passage of the outer catheter slides relative to the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member.

71. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 26 wherein a length of the proximal portion extends into the opening of the proximal end of the intermediate portion to create a passage between the proximal portion and the intermediate portion through which the guide wire extends.

72. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 71 wherein the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member is located within the passage.

73. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 72 wherein the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member is slidably disposed within the passage of the outer catheter member.

74. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 47 wherein a length of the proximal portion extends into the opening of the proximal end of the intermediate portion, the space between the proximal portion and intermediate portion defining the passage.

75. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 74 wherein the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member is located within the passage.

76. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 75 wherein the proximal end of the guide wire receiving member is slidably disposed within the passage of the outer catheter member.